

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Susan Rancourt, Chair; Marjorie McBride, and Paul Silva

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell (6:43 p.m.), Karen Lynch, Bill O'Dell, John Saviano (6:40 p.m.), Lynn Wainwright (6:58 p.m.), Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva, Paul Morris and George Simmons

Wireless Classroom Initiative (WCI) Grant Award Presentation

Paul Morris gave a presentation on the Wireless Classroom Initiative Grant Award. He stated that the grant award totals \$394,810.60 and is being run on a school by school basis within the District.

In 2012, RIDE conducted a statewide technology infrastructure survey which revealed that only 23% of classrooms in the State of Rhode Island are covered by a wireless footprint. A \$20 million Technology

Infrastructure Capital Bond was established to provide wireless capabilities to every classroom in the State. The bond will cover site surveys, hardware, labor and a three year warranty. The WCI Grant Award will provide Bristol Warren Regional Schools with a strong wireless infrastructure increasing the network size from 1 G to 10 G. The new infrastructure is beyond industry standards and will support the District's 1-1 laptop initiative.

In May 2013, RIDE released a list of approved WCI vendors. Paul M. and his staff met with three of those vendors; each company completed a site survey as well. In July 2013, initial sealed bids were submitted to RIDE.

Paul M. met with RIDE and the Wireless Committee. It was determined that Carousel Industries would be the best choice to complete the wireless project for Bristol Warren Regional Schools. Paul M. stated that Carousel Industries initial bid of \$399,091.80 included extra equipment that would not be necessary for the District. Carousel Industries scaled back the items in question from their bid and presented a new bid amount of \$311,000. The new amount of \$311,000 falls within the parameters of the Grant Award amount of \$394,810. Carousel Industries will work within RIDE guidelines. Paul M. stated he has worked with Carousel in the past and has confidence in their ability to complete the task.

Several committee members expressed concern about the legality of

Carousel Industries changing their bid amount in the middle of the process. Paul M. assured those present that RIDE was aware of the circumstances surrounding Carousel's mid-process bid change, and supported moving forward with selecting Carousel Industries as the WCI vendor for Bristol Warren Regional School District. Committee members requested that the District's legal counsel, Andrew Henneous, review the grant prior to final signatures.

Paul M. closed his presentation by discussing the WCI Implementation Plan. There are four milestones established for reimbursement as follows:

- Milestone 1 – Cabling Complete – 25%**
- Milestone 2 – Equipment Received – 25%**
- Milestone 3 – Implementation – 25%**
- Milestone 4 – Final Acceptance – 25%**

Milestone reimbursements will be made on a school by school basis.

Post-Retirement Benefits

Pauline S. reported that full implementation of the Affordable Care Act is set for 2018. In order for the District to come into compliance with the tenants of the Affordable Care Act, Pauline S. is researching the best avenues for providing similar healthcare coverage for all retirees, especially those with "Cadillac plans" who are currently receiving free healthcare for life. Some retirees might be put on

Medicare. Pauline S. is reviewing each retiree on a case by case basis considering all factors of their individual retirement plans. The end-result, to make sure the retiree's level of care is not impacted.

Next meeting – January 20, 2014

Adjournment:

MOTION: At 7:05 p.m. Marj M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Paul S. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

kd